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RURAL DISTRICT



Interim Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

on the

**Health & Sanitary Circumstances
for the Year**

1946

Drayton Rural District Council



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ADDERLEY	Councillor H. B. Clare
CHESWARDINE	Councillor F. W. Cope (Chairman of Housing & Sanitary Committee) Councillor J. Lea, J.P. (Chairman of Finance Committee)
CHILDS ERCALL	Councillor J. Reeves
HINSTOCK	Councillor Major A. C. L. D. Lees Councillor H. G. E. Vardon
HODNET	Councillor Col. R. A. F. Freeman, J.P., M.C., T.D. Councillor J. C. S. Gatensbury Councillor C. A. S. Livesey
IGHTFIELD	Councillor Brig.-Gen. Lyon, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.
MORETON SAY	Councillor H. Peacock (Chairman of Council) Councillor J. A. Smith
NORTON-IN-HALES	Councillor F. Crewe (Vice-Chairman of Council and Chairman of Water Committee)
STOKE-ON-TERN	Councillor A. Lewis Councillor W. Preston
SUTTON-ON-TERN	Councillor P. Gough
WOORE	Councillor J. Meakin Councillor Rev. F. A. Moss


Clerk : T. DUDLEY

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. W. A. M. STEWART, M.B., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

H. WAINWRIGHT, M.R.S.I.



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Drayton Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Again the Ministry of Health has found it expedient to retain the form of Annual Report as submitted from the beginning of the War, and this being so, an interim survey of the health and sanitary circumstances of your area is given herein.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES: 1946 has been a year of comparative freedom from notifiable disease. Scarlet Fever has been practically absent. While there has been a limited number of cases of Whooping Cough, Measles showed a marked fall and for this type of illness might be considered as being absent from the District. No other disease demands comment and it is pleasing to notice the completely free record in Diphtheria.

Vital Statistics show that the Birth Rate has been higher than that generally prevailing while the Infantile Death Rate has been almost half of that of the Country. The General Death Rate has also been low and the whole gives reason for some satisfaction. The Tuberculosis Register shows a rise in total and at the same time the death rate from all types of this disease has been higher than that of England and Wales. This may be accounted for by the number of deaths from the Non-pulmonary form of Tuberculosis. It has to be remembered that when dealing with small totals even the increase of deaths by one addition only causes rapid fluctuations in the final results.

The Council has directed much attention to the provision of adequate houses for the local residents, many of whom live by following occupations on the land. The Local Parishes received equal preference and a very satisfactory start has been made in the completion of new homes. Allied to this has been the provision of more modern sanitation. The Council has reason to be satisfied with the progress made — largely through local initiative.

The Medical Officer of Health takes this opportunity of thanking your Sanitary Inspector for his close collaboration in the work of the Department and for his help in the compilation of this Report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. M. STEWART,

M.B., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

16th August, 1947.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (in acres)	53,000
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population ...	7,822
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1946), according to Rate Books	2,044
Rateable Value	£42,143
Sum represented by One Penny Rate	£175
Persons per acre (calculated on population) ... ..	.15

POPULATION.—The Registrar-General's Estimate of Population shows a rise in total. This is in keeping with returns in the County generally.

As your Surveyor has pointed out, the development of the area is on a parochial basis and such planning as has been prepared moves toward the maintenance of the villages in such parishes. This being so, it is expected that social facilities and services will centre round these villages and this type of rural life will be preserved.

Extracts from Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	81	83	164
Illegitimate	8	4	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	89	87	176
Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population ... ..	...	...	22.5
Ditto (England and Wales) ... ..	...	...	19.1

STILL BIRTHS

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	4	—	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	4	—	4
Rate per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births ... ..	...	...	22.2

DEATHS

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total Number of Deaths	37	37	74
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population ... ..	...	...	9.46
Ditto (England and Wales) ... ..	...	...	11.5

INFANTILE MORTALITY

All Infants, per 1000 live births	22.75
Ditto (England and Wales)	43
Legitimate Infants, per 1000 live legitimate births	12.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 live illegitimate births	167

Total Number of Infant Deaths :—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	1	1
Illegitimate	1	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	2	2

Deaths from :—

Cancer (all ages)	13
Measles (all ages)	<hr/>
Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	<hr/>

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Under this heading there were no deaths.

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

Tuberculosis (all forms)	4
Cancer	13
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	5
Heart Disease and Circulatory Disturbances	24
Respiratory Diseases	6
Nephritis	1
Premature Births and Congenital Malformations	2
Violence	2
Abdominal Disease	2

SECTION B

General Provision for Health Services in the District

AMBULANCE.—During the year the County Medical Officer of Health explored the possible relationship of the ambulance service in playing its part in a larger County Scheme. This scheme will be required to meet the needs of the New Health Act and the County Authority will be constituted the ruling body. As a result of these investigations it was felt that with perhaps an additional ambulance and a closer liaison with the Whitchurch Service there would be little need for change, and it is likely that the Local Authority will continue to exercise deputed control over this.

MORTUARY SERVICE.—The provision for this remains unchanged.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

VERMIN CONTROL AND DISINFECTION.—The Sanitary Inspector reports that the District generally has been free from rats. While during the year an inspection has been made on sewers in the area of Norton-in-Hales and Cheswardine, the system of prebaiting shows that no infestation occurred there.

In such places as are subject to verminous attack, as at Hodnet Tipping Centre, contract has been made with the County Authority and their Pest Officer assumes responsibility for control.

From domestic dwellings there have been few complaints and in the same way few have been made in the matter of bug infestation. The need for the disinfection of bedding or furniture has not arisen.

SCAVENGING SERVICE.—General Service: This is not organised and is dependent on local parochial tipping on such sites as are available. The Sanitary Department supervises this but it has not been found possible to have any rational controlled system.

With a view to the starting of a general scheme covering the whole of the rural areas, exploration has been made and investigation into the most suitable type of vehicle has been carried out. A visit was paid to Dudley to inspect the Mechanical Lewin type of collector, but so far it has not been possible to decide on the basis for this scheme as the Authority has no accommodation to house the necessary vehicles or staff.

WATER SUPPLIES.—The District is served by the system of rural supplies as set out in the Annual Report of 1945 and in the more detailed survey sent to the County Authority.

The following table gives dates of piped water supplies in the various parishes at the end of December, 1946:—

11 new services have been made during the year.

PARISH				No. of Properties	PIPED WATER SUPPLY		
						Domestic	Meter
Cheswardine	}	...	...	...	...	83	21
Chipnal		...	...	276	...	46	—
Goldstone		...	...	...	...	3	9
Hodnet	}	...	...	460	...	113	12
Marchamley		...	...	...	...	48	—
Ightfield	}	...	...	160	...	103	42
Calverhall		...	...	...	...	...	...
Moreton Say	...	...	...	200	...	55	12
Norton-in-Hales	...	...	...	133	...	88	10
Woore	...	...	...	263	...	172	44
Adderley	...	...	...	69	...	2	6
Childs Ercall	...	...	...	130	...	12	—
Hinstock	...	...	...	215	...	6	—
Stoke-on-Tern	...	...	...	237	...	24	—
Sutton-on-Tern	...	...	...	176	...	26	—
Totals	...	...	...	2319	...	781	156

937 total connections at 31st December, 1946.

At Stoke Heath, from the Air Ministry Supply, an extension has been carried to households and the school in this district. This has involved the laying of some 900 yards of three-inch main, together with 300 yards of two-inch.

At Ightfield there are proposals for extension of both pumping facilities and the supply system. This will mean carrying the service to New Street Lane as far as Unity Farm and Oldfields Farm in the Parish of Moreton Say. This will entail the laying of a service main of some 2 miles in length. At the pumping station an additional power unit will have to be provided, with submersible pump. Additional reservoir to meet the future demand will have to be constructed. At Hodnet, on account of the intended extension to Marchamley, about one mile service piping will be required and at the source a new borehole with pump to this will have to be installed. At all new housing estates where a main supply has been available, suitable extensions have been completed.

Frequent samples have been taken of not only the main supplies but also many from private undertakings. Generally it may be said that the reports on the analysis of principal supplies have shown little variation from those of recent years. In the cases of private supplies, as in wells, these, taken on request or on suspicion, have too frequently been found to give unsatisfactory returns.

Chlorination has ceased to be practised in the District with the stoppage of this service at Cheswardine.

Above, it has been noted that provision is being made to supply the Marchamley Parish, which has experienced a shortage for some time. This has been due to insufficient pumping, and as the owners of this private source would not appear to be able to give anything in the region of abundance they have asked the Local Authority to terminate their relationship. A major result of this change will be the need for the replacement of the storage system. In this field of maintenance your Officer's chief concern has been that of relief service. The lack of this is evident at Hodnet, where reliance has to be placed on one sole pumping unit. The same position arises at Ightfield where, while there are two pumping units, one is of the capacity of 1,200 gallons per hour only. It is expected that provision for this relief will run concurrently with the general service extensions.

In the field of minor servicing no difficulties have been experienced. No change has been made on the number of stand-pipes supplying homes.

SEWERS AND SEWERAGE.—Main Works: Associated with housing development, this service has necessarily followed closely, but owing to the scattered nature of rehousing in this rural area the tendency has been to provide small installations for disposal, and wherever possible the water-carriage system is in use.

Disposal Plant has been installed at Adderley sufficient to deal with sewage from 12 houses.

Four houses completed in Childs Ercall village were connected to the Admiralty sewer.

HODNET.—This is one of the larger schemes and has been the subject of an Enquiry which was held in the latter part of the Year. While it had been planned to provide for the greater part of the Village, the Ministry of Health felt that some reconsideration should be made of this planning with a view to the inclusion of some of the more outlying houses.

MAIN WORKS.—Cheswardine Village Plant constitutes almost the only works which incorporates modern methods of treatment. It is reported that here the general working and maintenance has been satisfactory. With the local development in housing, some extension of this will be necessary and the time seems suitable for a revision of the siting of this installation. A change might be made to a place nearer to the river and through this to establish a means for the provision of modern sanitation to the village of Sowdley.

At Ollerton an extension of mains involving a distance of 250 yards of six-inch sewer has been laid to overcome existing difficulties of drainage. This takes the flow from the Council

Houses of Ollerton and is finally dealt with by septic tanks. The flow is of waste water only, and drainage from neighbouring farms after their crude sewage has been treated on these sites.

Taking the district as a whole, 87 houses are connected with a proper Sewage Disposal System, and 138 houses discharge their sink wastes into surface-water drains.

The rest of the district have to rely on Septic Tanks.

Maintenance has presented no major problem and the work of general control has been efficiently completed.

SECTION D

Housing

COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATES.—The Council has erected, prior to 1939, 223 houses as follows :—

			Standard Rents per week
211—Three-bedroom Type	...	...	6/- to 6/6
6—Parlour (4-bed) Type	...	...	8/- to 9/-
6—Four-bedroom Type	...	...	7/-

223

These rents will be increased by 1s. 6d. per week in the next financial year.

The rents of the new Council Houses have been provisionally fixed at 11s. per week.

The aim of this Authority has been to satisfy the needs of the rural workers in the first instance, and then to provide for young families and ex-Service personnel. With this in mind, quotas of permanent houses have been allocated to the following parishes :

NEW COUNCIL HOUSES.—The following Contracts for Council Houses were placed during the year 1946 :—

Adderley	...	...	...	...	8
Calverhall	...	...	...	...	6
Childs Ercall	...	...	...	...	4
Dorrington	...	...	...	...	4
Hinstock	...	...	...	...	4
Ightfield	...	...	...	...	2
Longford	...	...	...	...	2
Cheswardine	...	...	...	...	10
Norton-in-Hales	...	...	...	...	6
Moreton Say	...	...	...	...	4

Total ... 50

12 houses were completed during the year — 8 at Adderley and 4 at The Links site, Hinstock.

Work was in progress on all the above sites with the exception of Moreton Say (4), which was not commenced until January, 1947.

The houses are of the permanent 3-bedroom type having floor areas as follows :—

Living Room	200 sq. ft.
Working Kitchen	102 sq. ft.
Wash House	42 sq. ft.
Bedroom No. 1	145 sq. ft.
Bedroom No. 2	138 sq. ft.
Bedroom No. 3	72 sq. ft.

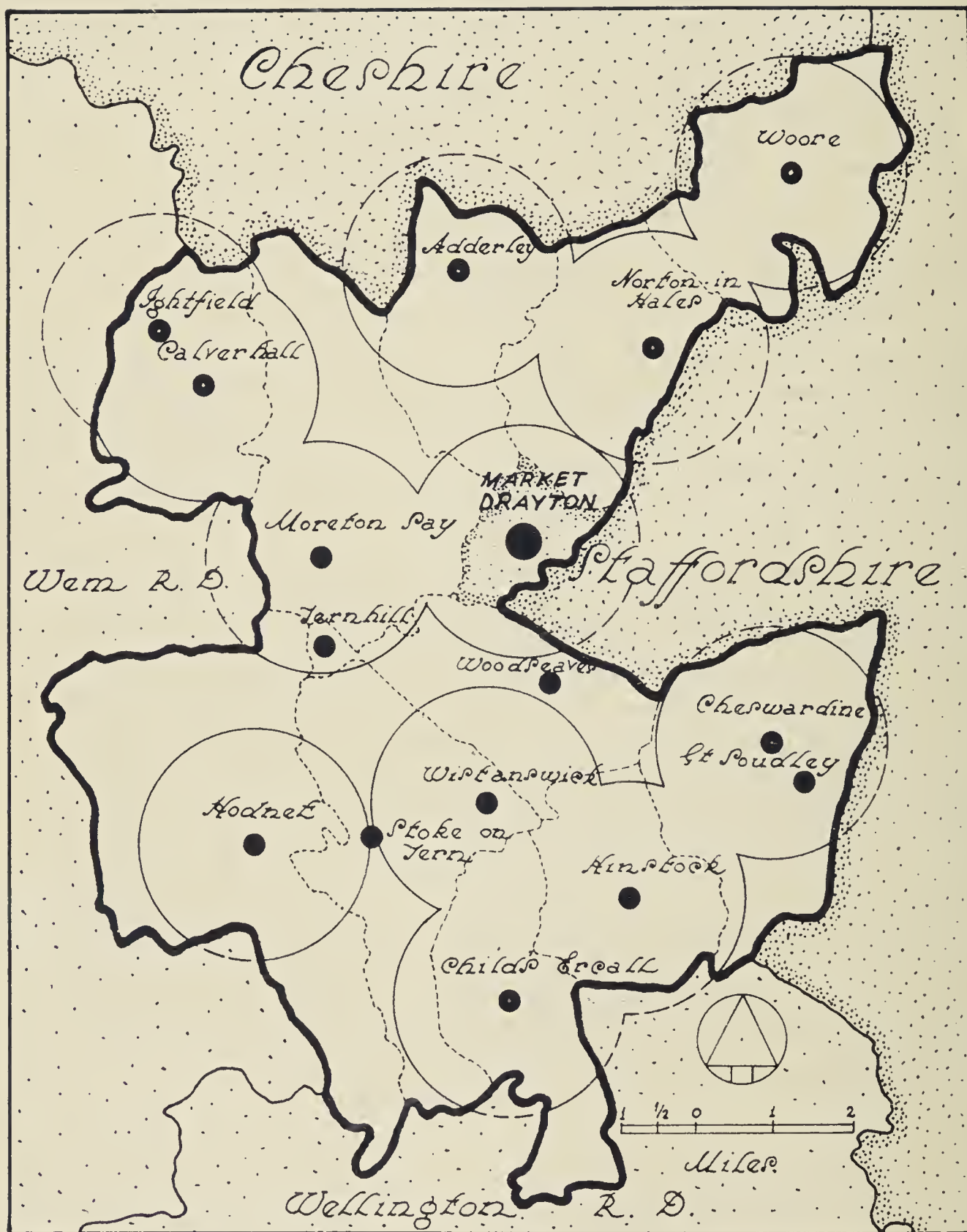
77 sq. ft. of Storage Accommodation has been provided as an adjunct to the house entered by a covered way at rear.

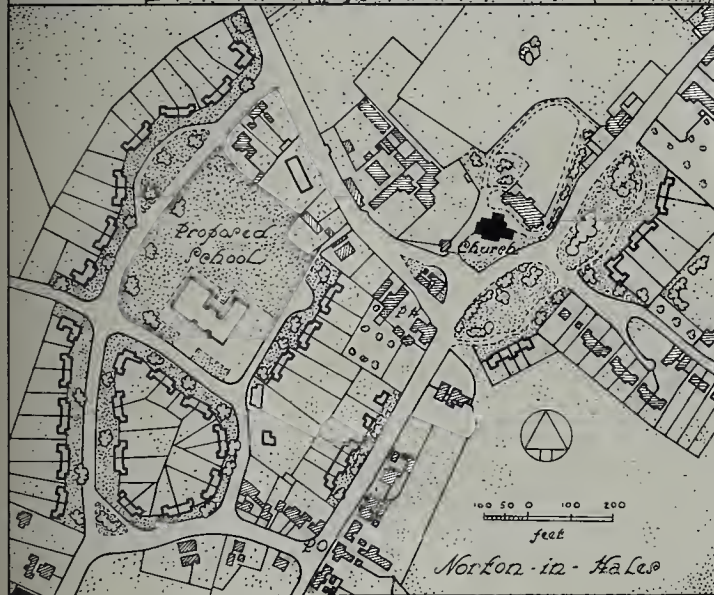
FUTURE HOUSING. — Work in preparation for further development in the Parishes of Woore, Stoke-on-Tern, Cheswar-dine, Ightfield, Hodnet and Norton-in-Hales.

No provision has been made for the erection of any type of temporary or prefabricated properties.

TOWN PLANNING—FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. — The Council have considered carefully the question of the location of future development within their area. They have come to the conclusion that they must, in the future interests of the district, discourage all forms of scattered or sporadic housing develop-ment as this creates problems such as the impracticability of providing public services at an economic cost, the difficulties of children attending schools, the lack of convenient shopping, social and recreational facilities, and in many cases the adverse effect which such development has on agriculture. This does not mean that the Council do not recognise that some agricultural key workers may, of necessity, have to be housed near the farms, but apart from such special cases, the Council consider that future development should be concentrated at convenient centres to form a natural expansion of certain existing and conveniently situated villages where full public services can be economically provided and where educational, recreational and social facilities can be available.

The key plan shows villages which are considered to be conveniently situated to serve the district for future development (excepting the special cases referred to above). It will be seen that the area within a radius of even one-and-a-half miles from these villages covers practically the whole of the Rural District, so that those residing there and working in the district can be within reasonable distance of their places of employment.





The other plans are examples of suggested layouts for further expansion of the villages chosen. In each case due regard has been paid to the form of the development to give a fairly open pattern ; to the extension or provision of water supply ; sewerage and sewage disposal ; convenience of schools ; shops and recreational facilities, etc.

The Council, in preparing its immediate housing proposals, is therefore following a longer term plan and avoiding the piecemeal and unco-ordinated development of the past which can only lead to future excessive expenditure, inconvenience and spoliation.

It is hoped that the policy adopted and being put into practice by the Council in the location and layout of houses will be followed by private developers when more private development is again possible.

The key plan and suggested layouts at Cheswardine, Calverhall and Norton-in-Hales have been prepared by the County Planning Officer and his Assistant, and it is appreciated that their co-operation with the Council's Officials in preparing these layouts has produced some practical foundation for future economic development.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.—Under this heading the licences issued were in the prescribed limits laid down by the Ministry of Health. Three licences were granted during the year ; 2 houses were completed under licences granted by Ministry of Works.

HUTMENT DWELLINGS.— This has not presented any problem but this may arise when the full de-requisitioning of Service property has been completed.

OVERCROWDING. — It is the opinion of the Sanitary Inspector that while this appears in limited numbers it is not excessive and should be overcome when the housing programme develops.

HOUSING SURVEY.— The Sanitary Inspector states that this is progressing and while, had other duties not necessitated temporary stoppages, it might well by now have been completed. The Medical Officer of Health agrees that the method of presentation of this aspect of housing to the Council has been eminently satisfactory. The standards adopted are those recommended by the Salop Joint Housing Board and this has been approved by the Council.

The position of the Housing Survey up to the end of the year is as follows :—

PARISH	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Total	OVERCROWDING	
						No. of houses Overcrowded	Units O'c'd
Adderley	6	18	25	2	51	3	3½
Norton-in-Hales	15	65	25	18	123	3	2
Woore	50	68	67	23	208	6	6½
Sutton	19	48	58	16	141	2	2
Cheswardine	27	87	53	26	193	5	6

CARAVANS.—Occasional cases have been brought to notice, but at no time has this been a serious problem.

CONDEMNATION AND REPAIRS.—One house has been condemned and in addition the numbers set out in the report of the survey under section four should be dealt with when the times allow. In this connection the Sanitary Inspector has informed the owners and occupiers of all houses in this category that their homes are unfit and are unsuitable for repairs.

REPAIRS.—All work of this nature exceeding £10 limit required the licence of the Authority and during the year 122 licences have been granted. This has involved a total expenditure of £9,700. Here it may be said that this work provides for essential repairs only. With the cessation of the grant provided for under the Rural Workers' Act the inducement to recondition property has not been so evident and in consequence the applications have fallen in numbers. It is the view of the Sanitary Inspector that strict control should be exercised in future permission of this type of work when it again comes into practice.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

MILK AND DAIRIES.—The Sanitary Inspector reports :—

Number of Cowkeepers Wholesale Producers .	417
„ „ Dairies (Factories)	2
„ „ Cowsheds	991
„ „ Accredited Milk Producers	109
„ „ Tuberculin-Tested Herds	8
„ „ Retail Purveyors	25
„ „ Pasteurised Retailers	1

MILK & DAIRIES ORDER.—Milk (Special Designation) Regulations: The County Council's list of Accredited and Tuberculin-tested Licences issued and in operation March, 1947, is summarised as follows:—

ACCREDITED		T. T.	
Producers	Producers & Bottlers	Producers	Producers & Bottlers
548	13	246	29

Comparative figures for Drayton R.D.C.—

Accredited Producers	T.T. Producers
111 (19.78%)	16 (5.81%)

The above figures give the progress made in the number of Accredited and T.T. Producers. There is every indication that, when materials and labour are available, there will be a general demand to bring up the sub-standard cowshed to the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order.

Certain parts of the district, however, are handicapped by the lack of an efficient water supply, and until a public supply is available several farms will be unable to comply with the requirements for the production of Accredited or T.T. Milk. Several farms are prepared to erect new shippons when materials are available. It is pleasing to note the increase in number of T.T. Producers.

Meat and Other Foods

SLAUGHTERING.—The District continues to depend mainly on the Central Abattoir at Whitchurch, and the meat which comes to hand is subjected to re-examination if the need arises.

It is the opinion of the Sanitary Inspector that the Council should examine the possibilities of the establishing of a local slaughterhouse in association with the Urban Authority.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

Fish	20 tins	Vegetables	672 lbs.
Soup	9 tins	Margarine	49 lbs.
Milk	323 tins	Dried Fruit	2 lbs.
Dried Eggs	2 tins	Bacon	141 lbs.
Jam	8 tins	Cheese	27 lbs.
Baked Beans	27 tins	Buns	620 lbs.
Meat	21 lbs.	Plus 166 Miscellaneous Items	

FACTORIES.—There are 2 Factories in the District, which collectively deal with 10,500 gallons of milk per day. In one factory the milk for domestic distribution is processed by the High Temperature Short-Time Pasteurisation. Samples are taken monthly by the firm concerned, and a good quality of milk is maintained.

A small macaroni factory has developed in the District during the war years.

The factories concerned maintain a good standard of cleanliness.

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and control over infectious and allied diseases

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease together with the number of deaths from such:—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Cases Notified</i>		<i>Deaths</i>
	1946	1945	
Scarlet Fever	2	7	—
Whooping Cough	37	3	1
Measles	7	75	—
Pneumonia	7	4	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	—
Diphtheria	—	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	1	—	—

Incidence of Disease in the Various Age Groups

<i>Years</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>		<i>Whooping Cough</i>		<i>Measles</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0	—	—	5	3	—	—
1	—	—	3	3	—	—
3	—	—	3	6	—	2
5	2	—	7	7	4	1
10	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	—	18	19	4	3

<i>Years</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>		<i>Cerebro-Spinal Fever</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0	2	1	—	—
5	1	—	—	1
15	1	—	—	—
45	—	1	—	—
65	1	—	—	—
Totals	5	2	—	1

SCABIES. — With the establishment of more normal conditions of living, there has been a marked fall in the numbers of cases of this complaint which have come to hand, and it may be considered that this no longer presents a problem locally.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. — The Annual Return submitted to the Ministry of Health for the Period ending December 31st, 1946, was as follows :—

	Age under 5 years but over 1 year		5 years and over but under 15 years		Total
Children Immunised	284	...	1031	...	1315
Child Population	699	...	1336	...	2035
Percentage Immunised ...	40.62	...	77.17	...	64.61

The County Authority continues to exercise control over the clinical side of this work, while the system of recording and reporting is carried through by the District Office. Gradually by this means it has been found possible to reduce the loopholes of escape of attention of parents to this very essential service.

TUBERCULOSIS. — The number of notified cases on the Register at December 31st, 1946, and the comparative figures for 1945 and 1944 are as follows :—

MALES			FEMALES		TOTAL
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
1946 ...	9	26	10	23	... 68
1945 ...	10	25	8	20	... 63
1944 ...	8	25	8	20	... 61

NEW CASES		
Pulmonary, 3	Non-Pulmonary, 4	Total, 7

DEATH RATES				Drayton	England & Wales
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000 population	...	...	...	.25	.25
Death Rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000 population	...	...	...	.25	.08
Total Death Rate (all forms)	...	...	...	.50	.33

There were 2 deaths from Pulmonary and 2 from the Non-Pulmonary Form of this disease.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1946

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age Group	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-5	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
5-15	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
15-25	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
25-35	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	1	—	4	1	1	2	—

There were 2 Pulmonary and 2 Non-Pulmonary Deaths.

CANCER.—The number of deaths from Cancer in 1946 was 13 (of these 4 were males and 9 were females).

	Drayton Rural	England & Wales
Death Rate per 1,000,000 living ...	1662	... 1768

W. A. M. STEWART,

16th August, 1947.

Medical Officer of Health.

